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NSC BRIEFING

1 May 1957

Background: Chronology of Major Soviet Disarmament Proposals Since May 1955

10 May 1955 A comprehensive two-stage plan which accepted the West's proposals regarding maximum force levels and the timing of a ban on the use of nuclear weapons.

27 March 1956 USSR introduced a new approach limited to the reduction and control of conventional forces and armaments. It omitted for the first time any provisions for banning nuclear weapons but proposed a ban on thermonuclear^{weapons}/tests.

16 July 1956 At a session of the Supreme Soviet, foreign minister Shepilov called for a cessation of both atomic and hydrogen bomb tests independent of any other disarmament measures.

13 September 1956 Premier Bulganin's letter to President Eisenhower formally proposed a cessation of atomic and hydrogen bomb tests, contending that no special controls would be needed to police a test ban since it is technically possible to detect from afar any explosion wherever it may occur.

17 November 1956 In a new omnibus proposal, the USSR agreed to "consider" aerial inspection over a zone in Europe 500 miles on either side of the present East-West line.

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18 March 1957

A comprehensive two-stage plan for reducing conventional forces and armaments and banning nuclear weapons. This was an amalgamation of the USSR's major proposals since 10 May 1955. It called for an immediate ban on nuclear tests independent of a general disarmament agreement.

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